Equipment on alternative energy sources

3641. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the gadgets/devices/equipments running on alternative energy sources that have been conceptualized/designed/prepared by the Ministry;

(b) the details of the agencies through which these gadgets are being marketed alongwith the details of marketing strategies; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that these devices are easily accessible to the masses on affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Several renewable energy based systems/devices such as, solar water heating systems, solar cookers, solar photovoltaic lighting systems, biogas plants, pumping systems, biomass gasifiers, water pumping wind mills, micro-hydel units, etc. have been developed and are being promoted under different schemes/programmes of the Ministry.

(b) Most of the above mentioned gadgets are made by private sector and are available commercially from the manufacturers and distributors through their dealers network. Some of these gadgets are also being marketed through Akshay Urja Shops in different States/UTs and also by respective State Nodal Agencies for renewable energy. Soft loans @7.5% interest rate for the establishment of these shops and recurring grant and performance based incentive during first two years of their operation are being provided.

(c) The Government is already providing capital subsidy ranging from about 10 to 90% of benchmark cost of certain systems/devices depending on the region and user category to make the same affordable. This apart, a scheme for providing soft loans at interest rates of 2-5% to different categories of users of solar water heating systems is also operational through various banks and financial institutions. Further, to increase the outreach of these devices, it is envisaged to expand the network of Akshay Urja Shops in various parts of the country during the 11th Plan period.

Post vacant in IREDA

3642. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four posts of non-official Directors in IREDA are vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) As per provision under Articles of Association of

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the number of directors of the Company, shall not be less than 3 and not more than 12. At present, there are 3 functional directors, 2 government directors and 3 non-official directors on the Board of IREDA. These 3 non-official directors have been recently appointed on 27th March, 2008.

Expansion of non-conventional energy sources in rural areas

†3643. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any scheme to expand non-conventional energy sources in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the promotion of these sources in rural areas of various States; and

(d) the number of villages which have been electrified by these sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing a number of schemes/programmes for promotion and deployment of systems/ devices based on non-conventional energy sources. These are being implemented throughout the country, including rural areas. The main schemes/programmes with a focus on rural areas are National Biogas and Manure Management Programme, Solar Photovoltaic Programme, Remote Village Electrification Programme, Scheme for Village Energy Security Projects and Programme for Small Wind Energy and Hybrid Systems.

(b) and (c) The schemes/programmes provide for partial cost subsidy, the quantum and the eligibility criteria of which may generally depend upon the technology, the category of user and the category of state, among other factors. The cumulative achievements under these schemes are given in the Statement (*See* below). The Ministry also provides support for enhancing awareness by publicity through print and electronic media, targeted awareness programmes, exhibitions, etc. Further, 20th August is observed each year as Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas in all state capitals and districts,blocks of the country.

Financial assistance is also given to states for setting up of District Advisory Committees, Renewable Energy Clubs and Energy Parks.

(d) Under the Remote Village Electrification Programme, the Ministry provides financial support for basic facilities of electricity/lighting through non-conventional energy sources in eligible villages and hamlets. So far, 8696 villages and hamlets have been covered under the Programme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.